

**GOVERNOR'S P-20 COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**Supporting Struggling Schools Task Force**  
**October 7, 2009**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
6<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room B  
Phoenix, AZ

**Members Present:** Marc Osborn, Chair; Dr. Nicholas Clement; MaryAnn Penczar; Kathy Hrabluk; Deanna Rowe; Bernie Cohn; Sheryl Wells; Tom Tyree; Cassandra Larsen; Jerry Wissink

**Members Absent:** Christopher Smith; Janice Palmer; Andrew Morrill

**Staff Present:** Debra Raeder; Dr. Deb Duvall; Karla Phillips; Melody Fowler

**Guest Presenter:** Dr. Carol Peck, Jody Foldesy, BCG, Reggie Gilyard, BCG

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Roles and Responsibilities**

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. Chair Marc Osborn welcomed members to the first meeting of the Struggling Schools Task Force, which will address struggling schools within our state and help the State of Arizona in the application for Race to The Top grants. The Chair expressed that the goal for the task force is to have interactive robust discussions and presentation of ideas. Everyone was asked to provide a brief introduction of themselves and their backgrounds.

**2. P-20 Coordinating Council's Charge to the Task Force**

Dr. Carol Peck, Chair of the P-20 Coordinating Council outlined the structure of the P-20 Coordinating Council and the task forces and explained what is expected of the task forces. The first priority being the Race To The Top grant application that is due very soon. It is also expected that the task forces will share ideas and take those ideas back to their constituency and bring those concerns and ideas back to the task force to discuss. Dr. Peck indicated that it is very important for everyone on each task force work as a team and be united in their efforts.

Marc Osborn and Debra Raeder shared a power point presentation that walked through the structure of the P-20 Coordinating Council and the task forces. A timeline with expectations at each juncture was outlined, as well as an overview of the Race To The Top grant application process and the need to move rapidly. It was again emphasized that teamwork was vital to getting this accomplished and would involve working with the other task forces.

Questions/Comments from Members:

Kathy Hrabluk – School Improvement Grant is being worked on in parallel to the Race To The Top grant. They are awaiting final direction, but need to take into consideration the Federal School Improvement Grant Funds when applying and utilizing the Race To The Top Funds.

**3. Overview of Race to The Top Application Process**

Dr. Deb Duvall, Special Assistant to Governor Brewer, briefly described the Race To The Top grant application process. She stressed that whether we received the funds from this grant or not, the mission

was develop a plan to improve education in Arizona. Arizona was one of eight states to receive technical assistance in order to help us apply for the Race To The Top grant. The Boston Consulting Group is providing this assistance.

#### **4. Current Status of Arizona's Efforts to Address Struggling Schools**

a. Dr. Kathy Hrabluk, Arizona Department of Education, presented a power point of the current status of schools in our state and the efforts and process for assisting the struggling schools. Dr. Hrabluk also explained the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation for improving schools vs. the Arizona Learns (AZLeans) legislation in place in our state (a handout was provided with this comparison). The Task Force members engaged with staff in questions and discussion:

Marc Osborn – Is the application process looking at NCLB Rankings or AZLeans data?

- They are looking at NCLB data, but will also look at AZLeans data to make sure practices are in place.

Bernie Cohn – Where does Arizona rank?

- 30% of Arizona Schools are making AYP

Tom Tyree – Will this number hurt Arizona's chances for grant?

- The thought is that this probably will not, due to the number of rural, Native American and ELL students.

Bernie Cohn – Are we using ELL to our advantage?

- Yes, as well as the rural and Native American student data.

Cassandra Larsen – What is the status of the \$6mil Longitudinal Data System Grant that was awarded to the Arizona Department of Education?

- This system is currently on the ground and was one of the reasons we were selected for the grant process, because it identified us as moving forward in education reforms.

Cassandra Larsen – What is the role of the universities in this process?

- University staff are appointed (or are being appointed) on all of the task forces and will be providing input and addressing issues as well.

Tom Tyree –How do the issues that the P-20 Council and task forces are working on align with the programs and plans that other legislators are presenting to the community, and how do we get them on the same page?

- Ideas from the legislators must dovetail into the Race To The Top requirements to receive funding. Ideas will still have some flexibility at the local level.

b. Deanna Rowe, Executive Director, State Board of Charter Schools, gave an overview of the legislation that created charter schools in Arizona and current statistics of charter schools in the state: currently the State Board of Charter Schools oversees 544 charter schools in the state; 10% of public school students attend a charter school. Funding for charter schools is more challenging to obtain and maintain. While charter schools follow the NCLB and AZLeans standards, the process of improvement differs. Schools that are not meeting an adequate level of performance are required to submit a plan of improvement upon renewal of their charter.

#### **5. Proposed Approach and Path Forward**

Jody Foldesy from BCG presented the approach and path forward for preparing to apply for the Race To The Top grant, outlined the overall timeline and meeting schedule, and highlighted the need for stakeholder engagement and involvement in the process.

#### **6. Call to the Public**

No public input.

## **7. Next Steps**

Marc Osborn reminded everyone that open meeting laws apply to the task force meetings, and any ideas and questions should be directed to Debra Raeder for consideration at the next meeting. Members were asked to keep in mind that ideas should include a framework for sustainability for when the funding is gone.

## **8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am with a motion from Cassandra Larsen, which was seconded by Deanna Rowe.